

2010 Policy Recommendations
Submitted to the Green Jobs Coordination and Policy Committee by
The WorkPlace, Inc., Southwestern Connecticut's
Regional Workforce Development Board

- 1) **Define the term “workforce development” and tailor efforts supported by the state toward that definition.** We recommend a definition which states that “Green jobs” are middle skills jobs that form the bedrock of the economy, provide family-supporting wages, and career ladders for advancement; and that “workforce development” entails the provision of training and education which results in a worker obtaining a nationally-recognized credential to work in an occupation.
- 2) **Adopt the definition of “Green Jobs” as described by O*NET Occupational Classification System.** O*NET is based on the federal Standard Occupational Classification System (SOC), which is mandated by the U.S. Department of Management and Budget, and was developed as part of a multi-agency initiative. This is imperative as any federal funding solicitations will seek to correlate investment in programs with occupational outcomes via use of this classification system. As the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration has not yet adopted a definition of Green jobs, this remains the only national system of classification. This should be revisited as DOL/ETA adopts definitions.
- 3) **Make state Department of Labor and the Connecticut Employment & Training Commission (including the Office of Workforce Competitiveness) key partners in all policy development.** Specifically, the Office of Research is coordinating with other states as part of the Northeast Consortium, which received \$4 million in ARRA funding in November to boost training and job opportunities in “green” industries throughout Connecticut and seven other Northeastern states. It is working on the development of an electronic Green Job Bank. Other consortium members are Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. *See the attached Work Plan.*
- 4) **Make the Workforce Development system of Connecticut, including the five (5) Workforce Investment Boards and CETC, the conduit for implementation of workforce development activities** and the link between our current partners in K-12 education (including vocational-technical schools), adult basic education, community organizations, training providers, community colleges and four-year universities to create pipelines of workers from entry level

to advanced. The workforce system is already the conduit for federal Green Jobs training initiatives, including the \$4 million Pathways out of Poverty grant in Bridgeport; a small Green Jobs Capacity Building award; and a \$3.3 million State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grant, designed to teach workers the skills required in emerging industries.

- 5) **Do not limit state investment in Green Workforce Development to any one type of occupation or industry.** Instead, support programs which train and educate people for occupations (as defined by O*NET) that are either shown to be in-demand, in need of enhanced skills, or new and emerging due to Green Economy activities. This approach will provide greater chances for individuals to find work in multiple industries and makes their skills fluid and adaptable to economic changes.
- 6) **Consult other state departments regularly for ARRA activity for planning purposes.** ARRA investments will continue to impact job development. For example, the \$8 billion commitment of capital assistance for high speed rail announced today is expected to create or save thousands of jobs in a variety of areas including construction, planning, operations and manufacturing. Thirteen corridors are identified for high speed rail grants, including the Boston to Washington route, with smaller awards for existing inter-city rail line improvements. The CT Department of Transportation may have insight into how this will impact the state. Any jobs related to these projects are considered Green.

Thank you to the Committee chairman and to Speaker Donovan for the opportunity to contribute our recommendations.

For further information, contact Ann Harrison, Manager of Policy and Research, at (203) 610-8540 or aharrison@workplace.org

New England Green Jobs Consortium

Work Plan

Connecticut will participate in the following Work Plan segments:

1. Defining Green
 - Literature review
 - Occupational/Industry matrix
 - Expert panels
 - a. Connecticut Energy Sector Partnership/Green Collar Jobs Council
 - b. Connecticut Energy Workforce Development Consortium
2. Green Industry List
 - Initial tagging of the database
 - Adding new tags based on State processes
 - Creating a Green Company/Industry report
3. Green Portal
 - Gather research/materials for incorporation into Green library
 - Determine basic design of Portal and create look and feel
 - Populate Portal with results of Consortium's efforts
 - Develop special section of Portal to support education community
 - Create shopping mall for APIs:
 - a. Create Connecticut-specific portal
 - b. Share programming logic with Consortium
4. Green Job Bank
 - Technical assistance to Consortium/*JOBcentral*

Connecticut-Specific Green Job Definition

The Governor's Executive Order #23 established the Green Jobs Council charged with developing green job opportunities, partnerships and training programs. The Connecticut Green Jobs Partnership expands the Green Jobs Council to include additional policy makers and employers of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy industries, and it focuses training efforts and coordinates related initiatives.

The Green Jobs Partnership recognizes the following sectors: Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Green Manufacturing and Deconstruction & Materials Use.

Currently the Green Jobs Partnership is proposing training activities in five promising green occupations: Building Analysts, Brownfield's Remediation, Green Manufacturing jobs, Wastewater Technicians and Municipal Building Officials.